Sangeet Natak Academy

†2979. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for promotion of Sangeet Natak Academy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous organisation set up and fully funded by the Government of India in the Department of Culture. It is devoted to the furtherance of the performing arts in India. The management of the Akademi vests in the General Council supported by the Executive Board, which exercises direction and control over the affairs of the Akademi. Since it is an autonomous body, the Akademi can take its own decision regarding its policies and programmes.

Recovery in Tourist Traffic

2980. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that aggressive marketing and slew of budgetary allocations and concessions had led to dramatic recovery in tourist traffic in later part of 2002 and early 2003;

(b) whether promotional campaign has been launched in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously to attract tourists to Nepal as Nepal Tourism Board has identified its Indian neighbours as the largest tourists visiting Himalayan Kingdom; and

(c) to what extent it has given fillip to tourists of both countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During the period October, 2002 to June, 2003, the international tourist arrivals in India have increased from 17,70,882 to 19,92,362 which is a growth rate of 12.5%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism does not undertake promotional activities aimed at promoting tourist traffic to other countries.

Development of Tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim

2981. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR :
SHRI B.J. PANDA :
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assured financial and technical assistance for all round development of tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim besides North Eastern Region; if so, the details of the project;

(b) whether a similar action plan has been drawn for Orissa to boost its economy; and

(c) the details of ongoing new schemes and subsidy projects and also proposed ones to develop and promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Tourism Projects are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and sanctioned on merits subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. Based on site inspections and consultations, it has been decided to take up the following works in Darjeeling area and Sikkim subject to availability of land.

Darjeeling Area

1. Improvement of tourist spots along Himalayan Railway route-Kurseong and Ghum.
2. Tourist Resort/Huts at Tiger Hill.
3. Tourist Loge at Kalimpong.

Sikkim

1. Development of Trekking Routes.
2. Institute of Adventure sports.
3. Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

(b) A project for development of Puri in Orissa as a destination with Central financial component of Rs. 394.55 lakhs has been sanctioned during the current financial year.